

does not place the application into condition for allowance. However, the explanation given by the Examiner (with which Applicants respectfully disagree) only addresses one of the issues raised by the Applicants in their 21 July Response. Accordingly, Applicants resubmit below the argumentation submitted previously on the issues the Examiner did not address, and respectfully submits that withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is warranted for these reasons alone.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references/statements are also incompetent to set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness because (a) there would have been no motivation, in the absence of the hindsight provided by the present specification, to incorporate the resin from JP '508 into the laminate of Valerius; and (b) there would not have been even a reasonable expectation of success in substituting the resin of JP '508 for the melamine-formaldehyde resin of Valerius. JP 508 teaches that adhesives which are blends of phenolic resins and melamine can be used to bond layers in **wood composite materials** because the phenolic resin enhances the penetration of the resin **into the wood**, and the urea/melamine resin or the melamine resin alone **helps to reinforce the surface of the wood**. The only bonding taught in JP '508 is bonding between resin-reinforced wood panels and base (wood) panels. There is nothing in JP '508 which shows or suggests that the blends of phenolic resins and melamine described therein may be used to promote adhesion **between a wood panel and a polymer film**.

In contrast, the melamine-formaldehyde resin described in Valerius impregnates a paper layer disposed between the kraft paper core and a thermoplastic film and thus bonds the kraft

paper core to the thermoplastic film. There is nothing in JP '508 that would have motivated one of skill in the art to substitute the resin blend of JP '508 for the melamine-formaldehyde resin in the laminate of Valerius in the absence of even a reasonable expectation that the resin blend would be a good adhesive for a thermoplastic film. Indeed, thermoplastic films are synthetic materials and the fact that JP '805 teaches that the described resin blend enhances penetration of the resin into wood cannot create **any** expectation of success with respect to its usefulness in bonding kraft paper to a synthetic polymer. Accordingly, in the absence of the hindsight provided by the present specification, it is respectfully submitted that there would have been no motivation to combine the references to arrive at the claimed invention and no reasonable expectation of success.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references/statements do not set forth even a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the invention as defined in any of the claims presently on file. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully believe that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

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